

Message Text

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AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

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AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

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AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR UNN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMATA UNN

AMEMBASSY TEGUA OATPA UNN

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE UNN

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 1826

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MX PGOV EGEN

SUBJECT:/ POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS - FEBRUARY 1975./R HC/2, SUMMARY:

THE CHILE (USG) WAR CRIMES COMMISSION

MEETING, THE OUSTER OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GUERRERO,

AND A CONTROVERSY OVER GOM-WRITTEN TEXTBOOKS DOMINATED

POLITICAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY. THE GOM SQUASHED CATEGORICALLY

RUMORS THAT ECHEVERRIA WISHED TO SUCCEED HIMSELF IN OFFICE

(ONLY THEREBY TO SPAWN RUMORS THAT IT'LL BE MRS. ECHEVERRIA

INSTEAD). CRITICISM OF THE 1974 TRADE REFORM ACT BEGAN TO

SUBSIDE WHEN THE CHILE COMMISSION DISTRACTED YANKEE-BA TERS'

ATTENTION. RECEIVING LESS ATTENTION WAS THE FACT THAT 13

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ELECTED (AMIDST CHARGES OF FRAUD) PRI MAYORS TOOK OFFICE

ONLY WITH THE HELP OF THE MEXICAN ARMY; THE OPPOSITION PARTY OF NATIONAL ACTION BROUGHT CHARGES OF PUBLIC CORRUPTION IN A PROJECT TO BUILD 373 FISHING BOATS WHICH HAD IADB FINANCING)./ AND/ PREDICTABLY, THE CASE OF THE COMMUNIST PROFESSOR WHO DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY DIED A QUIET DEATH BEFORE GOM BEGAN LAMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHILE. END SUMMARY.

?1. CHILEAN "TRIAL HELD IN MEXICO CITY (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE CRIMES OF THE CHILEAN MILITARY JUNTA, WHICH HELD ITS THIRD SESSION FROM FEBRUARY 18 TO 21, DEVELOPED INTO A PUBLICIZED AND ONE-SIDED ATTACK ON BOTH THE ALLEGED CRIMES OF PINOCHET GOVERNMENT AND THE ALLEGED CIA ROLE IN DESTABILIZING THE ALLENDA REGIME. IN HIS SPEECH OPENING THIS MEETING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MADE THE LATTER THE THRUST OF A PARTICULARLY STINGING ATTACK ON THE USG. IN ITS FINAL DECLARATION, THE COMMISSION CALLED FOR BOTH THE DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL DENUNCIATION OF THE ALLEGED US INTERVENTION IN CHILEAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. (SEE MEXICO 1719)

2. REASONS FOR GUERRERO GOVERNOR OUSTER REMAIN CLOUDED IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, THE GOM IN LATE JANUARY BROUGHT CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THE PRI (RULING PARTY) GOVERNOR OF GUERRERO (NOGUEDA) AND THEN, IN A CONSTITUTIONALLY QUESTIONABLE MOVE, THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS DECLARED HIS POWERS HAD "DISAPPEARED" AND APPOINTED A NEW GOVERNOR. ALTHOUGH THE GOM HERALDED THE ACTION AS AN INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF ITS FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION, MEXICANS PRIVATELY WERE UNANIMOUS IN BELIEVING THAT WAS THE ONE THING IT WAS NOT. NO SINGLE EXPLANATION HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING WHICH IS CONVINCING, THOUGH IT SEEMS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT NOGUEDA AND RUBEN FIGUEROA, THE GOVERNOR-ELECT, ARE POLITICAL ENEMIES. NONETHELESS PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD TO APPROVE THE ACTION AND NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHY HE DID.

3. TEXTBOOK CONTROVERSY (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
A LONG SIMMERING DEBATE OVER TWO GOM-WRITTEN 6TH GRADE
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TEXTBOOKS FLARED INTO A FULL-FLEDGED CONTROVERSY IN FEBRUARY WHEN FIRST THE NATIONAL PARENTS UNION AND THEN A CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS TOOK NATIONALLY PUBLICIZED ISSUE WITH SOME ASPECTS OF THE TEXTS. THE PRIMARY ISSUES WERE AN ALLEGED MARXIST BIAS IN ONE AND A TOO EXPLICIT DEPICTION OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION IN THE OTHER. ALTHOUGH THE GOM REACTED WITH THE NOW FAMILIAR "OBSCURE-FORCES-AT-WORK" COUNTERATTACK, THE TRUTH SEEMS TO BE LESS

COMPLICATED--MANY MEXICAN MIDDLE AND LOWER CLASS PEOPLE DON'T WANT THEIR CHILDREN BEING TAUGHT THIRD WORLD RHETORIC OR HAVE ENCROACHED UPON THEIR PARENTAL ROLE IN SEXUAL EDUCATION. GOM MAY BE WILLING TO REVISE TEXTS TO ACCOMMODATE OBJECTIONS, THOUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE DEBATE OF OPPOSITION PARTY, PAN, WILL MAKE IT TOUGHER FOR IT TO BACK AWAY FROM UNEQUIVOCAL PUBLIC DEFENSE.

4. RE-ELECTION RUMORS SQUASHED

TO PUT AN END TO RUMORS THAT HE WISHED TO SUCCEED HIMSELF IN OFFICE, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD PRI (RULING PARTY) PRESIDENT REYES HERODES DENLARE IN A FEBRUARY BT SPEECH ATTENDED BY KEY POLITICAL PERSONALITIES THAT SUCH RUMORS WERE "OFFENSIVE TO THE REVOLUTION AND TO THE "REVOLUTIONARY LUIS ECHEVERRIA". ECHEVERRIA LED THE APPLAUSE. NOW, HOWEVER, THE SCUTTLEBUTT IS THAT MRS. ECHEVERRIA INSTEAD WILL BE THE CANDIDATE. OF COURSE, NO ELECTION ECHEVERRIA MIGHT TAKE COULD BE BETTER CALCULATED TO RESULT IN CIVIL INSURRECTION THAN ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE HIS WIFE AS PRESIDENT; WE BELIEVE THE RUMOR TO BE ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

5. PUEBLA ELECTIONS

WIDESPREAD AND APPARENTLY GRASS ROOTS REACTION TO THE VICTORY OF THIRTEEN PRI CANDIDATES IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN PUEBLA RESULTED IN THE MEXICAN ARMY BEING THE GUEST OF HONOR ON INAUGURATION DAY. IN CHOLULA, PUEBLA, THE RTCRY REACHED SUCH POTENTIALLY VILLENENT PROPORTIONS THAT THE MAYOR ELECT, HO FIRST RESIGNED, (MEXICO 1000, PARA 5) AND THEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM MEXICO CITY WITHDREW HIS RESIGNATION, TOOK AN "INDEFINITE LEAVE OF ABSENCE" THREE MINUTES AFTER TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE. HIS DEPXUTY, EQUALLY ANATHEMA TO THOSE WHO THOUGHT THE ELECTION STOLEN, CONFIDENTIAL

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DECLINED THE HONOR TO SUCCEED. FINALLY A PRETTY 26 YEAR OLD COUNCILWOMAN TOOK THE JOB, PROTECTED BY A MACHISMO RELUCTANCE TO CARRY OUT THREATS AGAINST A WOMAN PRI MAYOR. ALTHOUGH PAN SUPPORTERS WERE ACTIVE IN THE REACTION, APPARENTLY THE COMMUNIST FACTION OF THE CCI (CENTRAL CAMPESINO INDEPENDIENTE) AND UNIVERSITY OF PUEBLA STUDENTS TOOK ORGANIZING LEAD.

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6. PAN CHARGES CORRUPTION IN FISH BOAT PROJECT
SEIZING THE INITIATIVE FROM A GOVERNMENT PROCLAIMING ITS
INTENT TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN THE BUREACRACY, OPPOSITION
PAN PRESIDENT JOSE ANGEL CONCHELLO RECENTLY BROUGHT
CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AGAINST UNNAMED PERSONS RESPONSIBLE
FOR AWARDDING OF GOM CONTRACTS IN A PROJECT TO
CONSTRUCT 373 FISHING BOATS (IADB FINANCING INVOLVED).
PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TURNED MATTER OVER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL
ODEDA PAULLADA FOR INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL
ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSCAST (NOT PICKED UP, SO FAR AS WE KNOW,
BY MEXICAN PRESS) AG'S OFFICE LAST WEEK SAID THERE MIGHT BE
"SOME VALIDITY" TO CHARGES, BUT ON FEB 27 SAID IT THUS FAR
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HAD FOUND NO WRONG DOING. PAN, INVITED TO JOIN THE
INVESTIGATION, SAYS THE AG HAS TURNED INTO "LAWYER FOR THE

DEFENSE", REFUTING RATHER THAN INVESTIGATING EVIDENCE PRESENTED. MEANWHILE PORTIONS OF PRESS RESPONSIVE TO GOVERNMENT LINE ARE ATTACKING CONCELLO FOR SLANDER BUT PAN MEMBERS PRIVATELY ARE GLEEFUL, CONFIDENT THEY HAVE A GOOD ISSUE.

7. LEFT PREFERS TO CONDEMN CHILE RATHER THAN GOM (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

GIVEN AN ISSUE AS POTENTIALLY EXPLOITABLE AS THE ONE WHICH IN 1968 LED EVENTUALLY TO TLATELOLCO, (SEE MEXICO 772) THE MEXICAN LEFT APPARENTLY PREFERRED TO TAKE FULL PART IN THE CHILE WAR CRIMES TRIAL HELD HERE THAN TO CONTINUE PROTEST OF THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH, WHILE IN POLICE CUSTODY, OF A MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) MEMBER (MORENO). THE INCIDENT DIED AWAY AFTER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA APPOINTED A FEDERAL DEPUTY TO OVERSEE THE INVESTIGATION. A PCM MEMBER ARRESTED WITH MORENO WAS QUIETLY RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGES AND WITHOUT PUBLICITY TO HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. THREE WEEKS LATER, PCM LEADER MARTINEZ VERDUGO WAS GIVEN SPOT ON THE PODIUM AT INAUGURATION OF CHILE WAR CRIMES COMMISSION.

8. MEXICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS (UNCLASSIFIED)

A) MEXICAN-YUGOSLAVIAN RELATIONS:

FAUSTO ZAPATA, SUBSECRETARIO DE LA PRESIDENCIA AND PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PRESS SPOKESMAN, VISITED BELGRADE FEBRUARY 13 TO 19 AND CONCLUDED HIS VISIT BY SIGNING A BILATERAL AGREEMENT COVERING COOPERATION IN TELEVISION, CINEMA, AND INFORMATION AGENCY ACTIVITIES. FAST ON THE HEELS OF THIS, YUGOSLAVIAN FONSEC MILOS MINIC VISITED MEXICO CITY FEB 20 TO 23 AND ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT TITO WILL ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO VISIT MEXICO AT THE END OF 1975 OR VERY EARLY IN 1976.

B. QUEEN ELIZABETH VISITING MEXICO:

QUEEN ELIZABETH CURRENTLY IS VISITING MEXICO. ALTHOUGH VISIT LACKS SUBSTANCE, GOM HAS EXERTED ITSELF TO PROVIDE WARM RECEPTION; MANY MEXICANS ARE OBVIOUSLY ENCHANTED WITH ROYALTY VISITING MEXICO (THOUGH GOM CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPENDITURES HAVE PROVOKED SOME CRITICISM). JOVA

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